

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, after the title, insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to PCT Appln. No. PCT/US2004/002534 filed March 11, 2004, and to German application 103 13 939.7 filed March 27, 2003.

At page 1, line 2, please add the following heading and subheading as shown below:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

At page 1, line 7, please add the following subheading as shown below:

2. Description of the Related Art

At page 1, line 8, please amend the paragraph as shown below:

Starch is frequently used for the production of biodegradable moldings. Starch, in particular destructured starch, is however generally hard and brittle in the dried state and cannot be molded at relatively high temperatures. As a result of adding water, part of the internal bonds are broken and the material becomes softer and moldable. This moldability can be increased by adding thermoplastic polymers in order to obtain an extrudable or injection moldable material. Frequently, the starch with residual moisture is pretreated (destructured) and pelleted in a separate step. These pellets, together with polymer granules, are then brought into the desired form thermomechanically.

At page 2, line 10, please add the following heading as shown below:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

At page 2, line 11, please amend the following paragraph and the subheading as shown below:

~~It was the object~~ An object of the invention was to provide thermoplastically modified starch compositions which, in addition to very good processibility, also lead to moldings which are distinguished by high strength, in particular in the wet state. These and other objects were achieved through modification of starch with polymer powders stabilized with a protective colloid or emulsifier.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

At page 11, at line 32, please amend the following paragraph as shown below:

In order to test the swelling in water, test specimens having an area of 2 x 2 cm² and a thickness of from 1.6 to 1.7 mm were used and were stored at 21°C in water, initially for 24 h. After the samples had been dried off with a cloth, the weight increase and increase in the thickness were measured immediately (24 h wet) and after storage in air for 24 h (24 h dry). Thereafter, the samples were placed again in water for a further 7 days and, after drying off, weight increase and increase in thickness were determined (7 d ~~dry~~ wet). After dry storage for 1 week, the remaining weight change and change in thickness were again measured (7 d dry).